

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PROPOSED 1979 BPW HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 066185

1. SAN JOSE HAS TWO HOTELS WITH CONFERENCE FACILITIES SUFFICIENT FOR MEETINGS WITH 500-600 PARTICIPANTS, BOTH IN SUBURBAN AREA. THESE ARE THE CARIARI (UP TO 800) AND THE IRAZU (UP TO 1000). HOWEVER, NEITHER HOTEL COULD HANDLE THIS NUMBER OF GUESTS E ONE TIME.

CARIARI HAS APPROXIMATELY 150 ROOMS AND THE IRAZU HAS SOMEWHAT OVER 200. TRAVEL TIME BETWEEN THE TL IS RDUGHLY TWENTY MINUTES. HERRADURA HOTEL, CLOSE TO THE CARIARI, HAS APPROXIMATELY 110 ROOMS. ALL THREE WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS WELL IN ADVANCE OF ANY MEETING AND PROBABLY WOULD BE UNABLE TO COMMIT ENTIRE SPACE FOR SEVERAL DAYS. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER SMALLER ACCEPTABLE HOTELS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT DOWNTOWN AREA WHICH COULD BE UTILIZED FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS PROVIDED THEY WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT INCONVENIENCE OF TRAVEL BETWEEN CONFERENCE SITE AND HOTELS.

2. HOTEL COSTS VARY CONSIDERABLY DEPENDING ON HOTEL AND FACILITIES OFFERED. MOST HOTELS DO NOT HAVE SWIMMING,
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 01301 221441Z

TENNIS, ETC., ALTHOUGH THE CARIARI, IRAZU AND TENNIS CLUB HOTEL DO OFFER SUCH AMENITIES. COST RANGE OF A SINGLE AT THE HERRADURA, IRAZU AND CARIARI ARE: \$23 TO \$28. DOUBLES ARE: \$24 TO \$35. AT THE SMALLER HOTELS, THESE COSTS RANGE FROM \$17 TO \$23 AND FROM \$21 TO \$28 FOR DOUBLES. MEALS, DRINKS, ETC., ARE REASONABLY PRICED IN MOST HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS.

3. TRANSPORTATION MIGHT BECOME A PROBLEM FOR A GROUP THIS SIZE. NUMBER OF BUSES AVAILABLE FOR CHARTER IS VERY LIMITED. TAXI SERVICE IS REASONABLE IN COST AND FAIRLY GOOD IN DOWNTOWN AREA BUT IS EXPENSIVE FOR TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN DOWNTOWN AND OUTLYING AREAS WHERE CARIARE AND IRAZU ARE LTYATED. NEVERTHELESS, WITH SUFFICIENT ADVANCE PREPARATION AND UTILIZING RENTED BUSES, SHUTTLE BUSES AND TAXIS, ADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION COULD PROBABLY BE ARRANGED. CAR RENTAL HER IS EXPENSIVE.

4. ONLY TWO INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES HAVE DAILY SERVICE DIRECTLY TO AND FROM THE U.S. THESE ARE PAN AMERICAN AND LACSA (COSTA RICAN AIRLINE). ONE OTHER AIRLINE HAS DAILY SERVICE TO PANAMA AND THREE OR FOUR HAVE SERVICE CONNECTING TO U.S. THROUGH NICARAGUA OR TEGUCIGALPA ONE TO TWO DAYS PER WEEK. IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE THAT RESERVATIONS BOTH IN AND OUT OF COSTA RICA SHOULD BE MADE FAR IN ADVANCE SINCE MANY FLIGHTS ARE HEAVILY BOOKED.

5. COSTS FOR ACCESSORY SERVICES NEEDED (SUCH AS REPRODUCTION FACILITIES) ARE HIGH IN SAN JOSE. TIMING OF CONFERENCE WOULD BE BEST DURING THE RAINY SEASON (APRIL-NOVEMBER). DURING THE DRY SEASON (NOVEMBER-MARCH) MOST HOTELS AND AIRLINES ARE HEAVILY BOOKED. IN SUM, ALTHOUGH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 SAN JO 01301 221441Z

CONFERENCE FACILITIES, HOTEL AVAILABILITY, AND OTHER LOGISTICAL SUPPORT POSSIBILITIES MAKE SAN JOSE BETTER SUITED FOR SMALLER CONFERENCE, BPW CONFERENCE COULD BE STAGED HERE. IF SAN JOSE IS SELECTED, RECOMMEND THAT BPW MAKE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE SITE ARRANGEMENTS EARLY ON AND PLAN TO HAVE ADVANCE PARTY HERE ONE MONTH BEFORE CONFERENCE DATE TO WORK OUT OTHER SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS. WEUSSMAN

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